

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Washington, D.C.

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**EPA – UNEP MOU Signing with Administrator McCarthy and  
UNEP Executive Director Erik Solheim**

DATE: September 16, 2016  
LOCATION: Alvin L. Alm Conference Room  
MEETING TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
FROM: Hodayah Finman, Senior Adviser, OITA/OGAP

**I. PURPOSE**

This is the first meeting between **YOU** and the new United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director (ED), Erik Solheim, who replaced former Executive Director Achim Steiner in June, 2016. **YOU** and ED Solheim will discuss the top priorities for your respective agencies and areas of past and future collaboration. At the end of the meeting, **YOU** and ED Solheim will sign a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EPA and UNEP, replacing the first MOU between the two agencies signed in 2011.

**II. TALKING POINTS**

- A strong working relationship between EPA and UNEP enhances global efforts to promote human health and the environment. We are excited to reaffirm this collaboration with the signing of a renewed MOU.
- This is a crucial time to address climate change. I am proud we are now a party to the Paris Agreement. One pivotal next step is adopting the HFC phasedown amendment in October.
- Other vital activities include the joint meeting of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), Global Methane Initiative and EPA, which took place in Washington last spring.
- EPA has been a strong supporter of the Minamata convention and we look forward to the entering into force in 2017 and ensuring its effective implementation.
- Following the WHO report that air pollution contributes to one in eight deaths globally EPA is pleased that UNEP has integrated air quality into its programs and continues to promote air pollution as a priority to environment ministries everywhere.
- UNEP and EPA achieved dramatic success in addressing lead exposure, first with the Partnership on Clean Fuels and Vehicles and now under the Global Alliance on Lead Paint.
- EPA is the US government focal point for the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and participates in several working groups. We were pleased to help strengthen UNEP's mandate at UNEA-2, particularly through a resolution on the prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste.

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- EPA strongly supported the UNEA resolutions on marine plastic litter and Microplastics. We partner with the UNEP Caribbean Environment Program on marine litter.
- EPA also works with UNEP on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and introduced methods to mobilize resources for wastewater treatment infrastructure for the Caribbean region.
- EPA and UNEP collaborate on research projects which enhance the sharing of data, improving public access to scientific information and promoting data-driven establishment and enforcement of environmental standards.
- A foundation of our shared work is strengthening environmental rule of law. As the US National Focal Point for the Montevideo Programme, EPA prioritizes public participation, access to information and access to justice.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### EPA Attendees

- **YOU**
- Matt Fritz, Chief of Staff
- Jane Nishida, OITA Acting Assistant Administrator
- Acting AA Janet McCabe, OAR
- Assistant Administrator Jim Jones, OCSPP
- Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management Lek Kadeli, ORD
- Principle Deputy Assistant Administrator Mike Shapiro, OW
- Deputy General Counsel, Ethan Shenkman, OGC
- Walker Smith, OITA Office of Global Affairs and Policy Director
- Carol Ann Siciliano, OGC
- Martin Dieu, OITA Chief of Staff
- Marianne Bailey, OITA Office of Global Affairs and Policy Deputy Director
- Kathleen Salyer, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery Deputy Director, OLEM
- Hodayah Finman, OITA, OGAP International Organizations Program Senior Advisor

- Ted MacDonald, OITA
- Alexis Rourk, OITA
- Brianna Besch, OITA
- Lisa Goldman, OGC
- Kelley Smith, ORD
- Karissa Kovner, OCSPP
- John Shoaff, OAR

#### UNEP Attendees

- Erik Solheim, Executive Director
- Patricia (Patty) Beneke, Regional Director and Representative for North America
- Fatou Ndoye, Deputy Regional Director
- Adam Hodge, Press Secretary to the Executive Director
- Lisa Svensson, Director, Global Marine Programme
- Laura Fuller, Information Officer, Regional Office for North America
- Hilary French, Programme Officer, Regional Office for North America

#### IV. BACKGROUND

EPA has a longstanding and successful relationship with UNEP that includes numerous substantive partnerships. The 2011 MOU was signed between then-Administrator Lisa Jackson and then-UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner at the UNEP Governing Council Meeting/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in Nairobi, Kenya. The 2016 MOU updates areas of cooperation the following: strengthening environmental laws, national institutional capacity, and national governance; creating healthy communities; transitioning to a green economy; responding to climate change and global challenges; and providing scientific leadership. In addition to the MOU EPA has a modest cooperative agreement with UNEP that is structured so that all EPA offices can work with UNEP on specific projects.

**YOU** have not previously met Executive Director Solheim, who was appointed to the position of UNEP Executive Director in May, 2016 and assumed the role in June. OITA Acting Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida and US State Department representatives participated in a bilateral meeting with Mr. Solheim during UNEA-2 in Nairobi in May, 2016.

UNEP was established in 1972 and addresses environmental issues at the global and regional level for the United Nations. UNEP has six regional offices and is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP is funded primarily through member state contributions; the U.S. gives \$10 million annually. Additional programmatic activity is funded through supplemental trust funds or cooperative agreements.

At Rio+20 in 2012, UNEP was strengthened and became a universal membership body. This change replaced UNEP's previous governing board with the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) which meets every two years in Nairobi. At UNEA, member states set UNEP's agenda, approve its work plan and budget, and raise the profile of emerging issues. At UNEA-1 the U.S. focused on raising the profile of air quality, resulting in a UNEA resolution on enhancing the role of UNEP in promoting air quality. At UNEA-2, the U.S. introduced a resolution on the prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste, marking the first time this issue has been raised in a multilateral environment ministers meeting.

EPA believes UNEP's strengths and core competencies are in its convening power and "brand" recognition, particularly with developing country environment ministries. It also provides Secretariat services to binding agreements and voluntary partnerships.

#### V. ATTACHMENTS

1. UNEP Executive Director Erik Solheim Bio
2. EPA UNEP Highlights Handout
3. Additional Background on EPA-UNEP Cooperation
4. Run of Show
5. EPA UNEP 2016 MOU